

**Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board**

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**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY BOARD**

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**CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE MEETING
JANUARY 26, 2006**

Task Force Members Present

Carol Murphy, M.A.
Alison Grimes, Au.D.
Lisa O'Connor, M.A.
Patti Solomon-Rice, M.A.

Staff Present

Annemarie Del Mugnaio, Executive Officer
Kathi Burns, Senior Staff Analyst
Lori Pinson, Staff Analyst
Ann Bollenbacher, CPD Coordinator
George Ritter, Legal Counsel

Board Members Present

Rebecca Binge, M.A.
Jennifer Hancock, M.A.

Guests Present

Robert Powell, California Speech-Language-Hearing Association
Ellen C. Fagan, Director, CE Program-American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
Jody Winzelberg, Audiologist, California Academy of Audiology
Jane Moir, SLP Continuing Education Coordinator
Rookie Hirsch, SLP
Dennis Van Vliet, Audiologist

I. Call to Order

Ms. Del Mugnaio called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

II. Introductions

Those present introduced themselves.

III. Discuss the Proposed Regulation Changes [CCR Sections 1399.151.1, 1399.160.3, 1399.160.4 1399.160.6, & 1399.160.7] Regarding Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Requirements as Proposed by CPD Task Force members:

A. Clarify Existing Regulations Related to Applicable CPD Course Content

- B. Consider Amending Regulations to Authorize CPD Hours For Related Course Work and Examine Broad Content Areas
- C. Examine Existing Discrepancies in Regulations which Define Acceptable Indirect Client Care Coursework [CCR Section 1399.160.4 (b)(2) and Section 1399.160.4(f)(5)(6)(8)(9)]
- D. Discuss Placing Limits on the Number of CPD Hours Audiologists can Obtain from Hearing Aid Manufacturers

Ms. Del Mugnaio provided a brief history on the Board's CPD program from its inception as a result of 1998 legislation and the implementing regulations that were adopted in April 1999. She stated that while minor changes to the CPD program have occurred over the past five years, no significant changes to the CPD course content requirements have been made to date, even though discussions over the past two years have centered on clarifying relevant content areas.

Ms. Del Mugnaio referenced the proposed regulation document in the meeting packets which represents recommended changes and comments as provided by the task force members, Board members, and subject-matter experts. She suggested that prior to considering changes to the specific language, the Committee should make decisions on key program processes and content requirements. She invited Ms. Bollenbacher to outline these key issues.

Ms. Bollenbacher outlined the main CPD program issues as follows: 1) Should the Board approve each CPD course offering? 2) Should courses that address other practices related to speech-language pathology and audiology be acceptable and, if so, should a limit be enforced for such courses? 3) Should a limit be placed on the number of hours an audiologist can accumulate for proprietary hearing aid courses? and 4) Identify clear and concise definitions for direct and indirect course content areas.

Ms. O'Connor and Ms. Solomon-Rice both believe that the onus for determining whether a CPD course meets the Board's requirements should rest with the licensee, and that it would be unmanageable for the Board to assume responsibility for approving course offerings.

Ms. Grimes responded and stated that she, too, believes that licensees should be responsible for adhering to the Board's CPD requirements, but that there is a tremendous amount of confusion about the existing requirements, which prompted the Board to seek other avenues, such as Board approval of individual course offerings to provide guidance on acceptable course offerings and ensure compliance.

Ms. Bollenbacher suggested that such clarity may be achieved by amending existing nebulous course content definitions.

Ms. Solomon-Rice stated that by requiring prior course approval, many providers may not participate in the Board's CPD program, thus creating an issue of limited access for licensees to a variety of applicable CPD course offerings.

Ms. Grimes responded that other changes could be made to address the access problem, such as increasing the number of hours authorized in self-study courses. She

stated that because technology has advanced and is making learning experiences more convenient, many licensees may welcome the flexibility of participating in more on-line CPD activities.

A discussion ensued regarding the definition of self-study. Ms. Del Mugnaio clarified that self-study is completed independently and, therefore, does not include interactive courses completed via the internet or by telephonic means where there is more than one individual participating in the course and feedback is offered by the instructor or other participants.

Ms. Del Mugnaio stated that she has noticed a shift in the Board's CPD policy since the new Board members were appointed and, therefore, the Board must be in agreement on the concepts of the CPD program and its intended benefits. She suggested that the agreed upon direction of the CPD program should be clearly reflected in the regulations.

The Committee proceeded to discuss the framework of the Board's CPD program at length and concluded the following: 1) a mandatory course approval process will not be implemented initially, but changes will be made to existing course content definitions to provide greater clarity, 2) an option to accumulate a maximum of 4 hours in "related" or "indirect client care" courses (or a combination of related and indirect client care courses resulting in a limit of 4 hours of CPD credit) will be added to the regulations, 3) new definitions and examples will be incorporated for direct, related, and indirect client care courses, and 4) the number of hours that audiologists can obtain through courses focused on hearing aid equipment or products of a particular company will be limited to not more than 50% of the total 24 hours required of CPD every two years.

The Committee identified definitions for direct and indirect client care courses and discussed language for defining related courses; however, an exact definition would need to be further developed for Board consideration.

The Committee determined that a voluntary course submission process should be included in regulation, as many licensees and providers may want assurances regarding the relevance and Board acceptance of courses they either partake in or wish to advertise as meeting the Board's CPD requirements.

The Committee proceeded to review the proposed regulation document and identified the language that reflected the Committee's decisions.

M/S/C: Grimes/O'Connor

The Committee voted to recommend to the Board to adopt the CPD proposed regulation document as amended during the Committee discussion.

Ms. Del Mugnaio stated that since there were a number of changes that need to be incorporated into the new regulation proposal, it may be more appropriate to amend the document following the January meeting and hold a telephonic Board meeting in mid to late February to seek Board approval of the proposed changes. She advised that the meeting would be noticed to the public in accordance to the Open Public Meetings Act.

The Committee agreed.

Ms. Del Mugnaio agreed to summarize the Committee discussion before the Board at the full Board meeting to be held the following day, and Ms. O'Connor agreed to assist with developing a definition for "related course content."

IV. Establishing Subject Matter Expert Training Guidelines.

Barring no objections from members of the public, the Committee tabled this item for a future meeting.

There being no further discussion, Ms. Del Mugnaio adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

Annemarie Del Mugnaio, Executive Officer